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-2:20-cr-00018-JCM-EJY -
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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2
                            DISTRICT OF NEVADA
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 4
   UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
                                      Case No. 2:20-cr-00018-JCM-EJY
 5
                  Plaintiff,
                                      Las Vegas, Nevada
 6
                                      Wednesday, March 23, 2022
           VS.
                                      10:16 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
 7
   FRANCISCO JAVIER MARES,
                                      Courtroom 6A
 8
                                      Revocation of Pretrial Release
              Defendant.
                                       and Imposition of Sentence
 9
10
                                      CERTIFIED COPY
11
12
13
                  REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
14
                  BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES C. MAHAN,
                      UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
15
16
17
    APPEARANCES:
                      See next page
18
19
20
    COURT REPORTER:
                       Samantha N. McNett, RPR, CRR, CCR
2.1
                       United States District Court
                       333 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Room 1334
22
                       Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
                       Samantha McNett@nvd.uscourts.gov
23
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25
    Proceedings reported by machine shorthand, transcript produced
    by computer-aided transcription.
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-2:20-cr-00018-JCM-EJY -
 1
                                APPEARANCES
 2
    For the Plaintiff:
 3
           ALLISON REESE, ESQ.
 4
           LISA CARTIER-GIROUX, ESQ.
           UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
 5
           501 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 1100
           Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
 6
           702-388-6336
 7
    For the Defendant:
 8
           ADAM GILL, ESQ.
 9
           AISEN GILL & ASSOCIATES
           723 South Third Street
10
           Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
           702-750-1590
11
12
    Also present:
13
           Angela Loveless, Pretrial Services Officer
14
           Erica Strome, United States Probation Officer
15
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17
18
19
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21
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23
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1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022; 10:16 A.M. 2 --000--3 PROCEEDINGS 4 THE COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR: This is the time set for 5 the revocation of pretrial release and imposition of sentence in case number 2:20-cr-00018-JCM-EJY, United States of America 6 7 versus Francisco Javier Mares. 8 Counsel, please enter your appearances for the record. 9 MS. REESE: Good morning, your Honor. Allison Reese 10 and Lisa Cartier-Giroux on behalf of the United States. 11 THE COURT: Thank you. 12 MR. GILL: Good morning, your Honor. Adam Gill on 13 behalf of Mr. Mares. He is present at liberty. THE COURT: All right. Thank you. You may be seated. 14 15 All right. This is a revocation of pretrial release 16 and imposition of sentence, but I'm inclined to -- I think the 17 revocation of pretrial release is moot. I mean, we're here --18 okay? -- for sentencing. 19 So Mr. Gill, did you have anything? 20 MR. GILL: No Judge. 21 I will say that the charge that we were -- that 22 triggered the pretrial release revocation was denied, but, again, we are here ready for sentencing and ready to proceed. 23 24 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Are the parties ready 25 then to proceed with sentencing?

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1
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: Your Honor, we have an issue
 2
    with -- I think Ms. -- in part of the request for a status
 3
    hearing, Ms. Reese indicated that we have an issue with now --
 4
    with what the factual basis is for the plea. Apparently, now,
 5
    which was not contemplated at the time when we entered into the
 6
    plea, there's an assertion that but for some threats that were
 7
    purportedly made by the CS, these events would not have
 8
    occurred.
 9
              THE COURT: I understand that.
10
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: Uh-huh.
              THE COURT: But let me hear from Mr. Gill then.
11
12
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: Okay.
13
              MR. GILL: Judge, these threats were made to
14
    Mr. Mares's sister who then relayed them to him that he needed
15
    to participate --
16
              THE COURT: The threats were made to the sister about
17
    her husband?
18
              MR. GILL: Correct.
19
              THE COURT: That's right.
20
              MR. GILL: And --
21
              THE COURT: So there was no threat to anybody in his
22
    immediate family?
23
              MR. GILL: And he acknowledges and takes
24
    responsibility for his actions.
25
              THE COURT: Well, I mean, he pleaded quilty.
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1
              I mean, I'm giving away my inclination, but I'm
 2
    inclined to deny it because if -- if this, in fact, were a
 3
    threat -- in other words, "Mr. Gill, I'm going to come over to
 4
    your house and kill your children," you wouldn't plead guilty.
 5
    You would say, "No. Wait. I had to" -- when you were first
    arrested, you'd say, "Wait. Wait. The only reason I did this
 6
 7
    was because he threatened -- Judge Mahan threatened my family."
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: Right. I understand, your Honor.
 8
 9
              THE COURT: And that's missing.
10
              And I've reviewed your -- and I don't mean to cut you
11
    off. I'll give you a chance, Ms. Cartier-Giroux.
12
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: Okay.
13
              THE COURT: But -- but I went through your video and
14
    that just -- that just seems to back up what I'm saying,
15
    that -- and I'm making this name up -- Jose Gonzalez from the
16
    Cartel came over and threatened the codefendant and -- who
17
    happens to be his brother-in-law. So he pleads quilty. And
18
    then he says, "Oh, wait. I can use that myself. I'll use
19
    that. Yeah. Yeah. That was -- he threatened a member of my
20
    family." And it's so telling that the defendant doesn't say,
21
    "Jose Gonzalez came over. It's the Cartel."
22
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: I understand what you're --
              THE COURT: "The Cartel did it. You know, the
23
    Cartel."
24
              It's like, you know, the big bad Government or, you
25
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1
    know, the military industrial complex or something. It's --
 2
    there's nothing -- it's just not believable. It's not
 3
    credible.
 4
              Now, let me --
 5
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: And that's fine, Judge.
              That was our issue with it is that we don't believe
 6
 7
    that those statements are -- are credible. And we looked into
 8
    it, actually, because it was an allegation made against a CS.
 9
              THE COURT: Well, of course, you did.
10
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: And we do not believe that those
    statements are, in fact, credible. And we have not been
11
12
    provided with any real basis to believe that. We have an idea
13
    of what actually happened and we don't think that it had
14
    anything to do with the CS.
15
              THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
16
              MS. CARTIER-GIROUX: Okay.
17
              THE COURT: Now, Mr. Gill, I'll --
18
              MR. GILL: I'll submit it, your Honor. And, again,
19
    we're ready to proceed.
20
              THE COURT: And again, if -- he never -- you never
21
    would have pleaded guilty.
22
              Hold up. Just be at ease a minute while the two -- he
23
    never would have pleaded quilty if, in fact, that was his
24
    motivating factor. So I don't think it was.
25
              Now, do you want to add anything?
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7 -2:20-cr-00018-JCM-EJY -1 MR. GILL: I don't, your Honor. Thank you. 2 THE COURT: All right. Anything else? 3 MS. REESE: No, your Honor. Thank you. 4 THE COURT: On this issue? On this issue? 5 Okay. Are the parties ready to proceed with 6 sentencing today? 7 MS. REESE: Yes, your Honor. 8 MR. GILL: Yes, your Honor. 9 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Gill, let me ask you and 10 the -- how do you pronounce your last name? Mares? 11 THE DEFENDANT: Mares. 12 THE COURT: Mares, yes, sir. 13 You and Mr. Mares to approach the lectern. I need 14 each one of you by a microphone. 15 MR. GILL: Okay. We do have mics here, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: I know. These are the best mics in the 17 house. I want to get a clean record. 18 MR. GILL: Okay. 19 THE COURT: These are the -- some of the attorneys 20 have heard this before. 21 MR. GILL: Yeah. 22 THE COURT: This is the wand of the microphone. These 23 are the longest wands that you can get. But I -- if you're --

are the longest wands that you can get. But I -- if you're -- when the Court -- when you're addressing the Court, you stand up, but if you stand up you're like this and the mic doesn't

24

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1
    pick up what you're saying. And so it's -- I've tried to get
 2
    them -- these are the longest wands in the entire federal
 3
             So -- okay.
    system.
 4
              All right. Are the parties ready -- take a moment.
 5
    Parties ready to proceed with sentencing?
 6
              MS. REESE: Yes, your Honor.
 7
              MR. GILL: Yes, your Honor.
              THE COURT: All right. Any reason why sentence should
 8
 9
    not be imposed at this time?
10
              MR. GILL: No.
              THE COURT: Mr. Mares, this is the time set for
11
12
    imposition of sentence upon you in case number 2:20-cr-18.
13
    June 2, 2021, you appeared before the Court and entered a plea
14
    of guilty to Count 1 of the control -- of the criminal
15
    indictment, distribution of a controlled substance,
16
    methamphetamine, which is a violation of 21 USC
17
    Section 841(a)(1) and subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii). Having
18
    reviewed the presentence report and plea agreement, the Court
19
    hereby accepts your quilty plea and adjudicates you quilty of
20
    this charge.
21
              Now, no objections were filed to the presentence
22
    report.
             Is that correct, Mr. Gill?
23
              MR. GILL: That is correct, your Honor.
24
              THE COURT: All right. Do you have any objections?
              MR. GILL: I do not, your Honor. Thank you.
25
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              THE COURT: Mr. Mares, did you read the presentence
 2
    report?
 3
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.
 4
              THE COURT: Did you find any errors or discrepancies
 5
    in the report?
 6
              THE DEFENDANT: No, I didn't.
 7
              THE COURT: All right. All right. Probation
    calculated the base offense level to be 36. Two levels were
 8
 9
    subtracted because the defendant meets criteria for safety
10
    valve provision in sentencing quideline Section 2D1.1(b) (18)
11
    and 5C1.2. That's 5C1.2. 5C1.2.
12
              Now, the Court may impose a sentence without regard to
13
    the mandatory minimum that would otherwise apply.
14
              I think he qualifies for the safety valve.
15
              MR. GILL: Thank you, your Honor.
16
              THE COURT: And so I'm going to apply that.
17
              Three levels were subtracted for acceptance of
18
    responsibility resulting in a total offense level of 31
19
    applying the safety valve.
20
              Total criminal history points are 0 resulting in a
21
    criminal history category of Roman numeral I.
2.2
              The maximum statutory term of imprisonment is life.
              The maximum statutory fine is ten -- I'm sorry --
23
```

\$10 million. That's hard to say that and not chuckle, but you

can just write a check for that, Mr. Mares, you know, the

24

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1 \$10 million. That's the Court's idea of humor. But that's it. 2 That's the maximum, just so you understand, \$10 million. 3 A special assessment of \$100 per count is mandatory. 4 Based on a total offense level of 31 and a criminal 5 history category of Roman numeral I, the guideline range is 108 to 135 months with a supervised release term of two to 6 7 five years and a guideline fine range of \$30,000 to 8 \$10 million. Wow. 9 All right. Ms. Reese, any additional comments before 10 I impose sentence? 11 MS. REESE: Yes, your Honor. If I could just briefly 12 make the record on what sentence I'd request from this Court. 13 Pursuant to the plea agreement, the Government is 14 requesting a 108-month sentence which is the low end of the 15 advisory quideline range, as the Court just determined, 16 followed by five years of supervised release. The Government 17 believes that this is sufficient but not greater than necessary 18 to serve the objectives of sentencing. 19 I did submit a sentencing memorandum that is at ECF 76 20 which I lay out additional reasons for the Government's 21 recommendation. Specifically, your Honor, that the defendant 22 has come before this Court and pled guilty to distributing --23 or conspiring, I should say, to distribute over four pounds of 24 methamphetamine. And that was actual methamphetamine,

25 | methamphetamine that is known by this Court, of course, to be

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one of the most dangerous drugs on the market that affects hundreds, if not thousands, of people in this city and across the country.

I also wanted to note that the defendant's conduct in this case calls for such a sentence specifically taking into consideration the statements made in the mitigation video regarding any purported or alleged threats that the Government does not believe ever occurred from the CS in this case. Specifically, on both instances, the defendant was who brought the drugs to the confidential source.

The first time apparently was on behalf of his codefendant. However, this was not a mere -- as the defendants say, it's an Uber situation where he just dropped something off and left. There was a conversation that occurred that detailed additional drug trafficking activity such as how much methamphetamine the defendant was able to acquire, the fact that he doesn't use the same phone number for very long.

Even if, for instance, the defendant was acting on behalf of his codefendant on the first deal, he then also brought the drugs to the second deal where the codefendant was also present. Doesn't make much sense why he would also go to that second deal if his presence was also not necessary and integral to this conspiracy.

Of note, your Honor, as well is the pending case the defendant has relating to an additional possession of

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1
    methamphetamine. And that was in November of 2019 in
 2
    paragraph 71 of the PSR.
 3
              THE COURT: That's not before me; is that right?
 4
              MS. REESE: That's correct, your Honor. That is a
    state court matter at this time.
 5
              Your Honor, apart from that, the Government just
 6
 7
    submits that this sentence is consistent with sentences across
 8
    the country. It is necessary to deter future conduct.
 9
              And on that, your Honor, I will submit unless you have
    any questions for me based on this statement and those in my
10
11
    sentencing memorandum.
12
              THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
13
              All right. Mr. Mares, would you like to address the
14
    Court? Would you like to have your attorney speak on your
15
    behalf? Or both of you may speak. It's your option.
16
              MR. GILL: Sorry, your Honor. He does want to --
17
              THE COURT: That's all right.
18
              MR. GILL: He does wish to address the Court.
19
              THE COURT: Yes, sir. Just speak into the microphone.
20
    Understand you're being recorded by the court reporter here.
2.1
              THE DEFENDANT: Is this a little bit better?
22
              Good morning, your Honor.
23
              THE COURT: Good morning.
24
              THE DEFENDANT: First and foremost, I will agree that
25
    -- I will take -- I'll admit that I was quilty to what I did.
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1
    Even though they're saying that the reason why I did what I did
 2
    was wrong, that's what I -- the whole reason why I'm here. I
 3
    was just trying to help my sister.
 4
              Other than that, you know, whatever you decide to dish
 5
    out, I have to take.
 6
              With that being said, you know, my -- my criminal
 7
    history, I don't have one. I've never been really in trouble
 8
    besides traffic tickets as a kid, you know. Other than that,
 9
    nothing major.
10
              It was a mistake, what I did. If I could go back and
    do it again, I wouldn't do it. I would, you know, put it in
11
12
    your guys' hands, but at the time when certain things happened,
13
    one doesn't really think about things. One thinks about the
14
    safety of their family. And that's what I did.
15
              THE COURT: All right.
16
              MR. GILL: And your Honor, it's clear that you read my
17
    sentencing memorandum as well as viewed the video.
18
              THE COURT: Yes, sir, I have.
19
              MR. GILL: Thank you, your Honor. And I would like to
20
    note that the people on the right side of the courtroom -- or
21
    your left -- are here for Mr. Mares.
22
              THE COURT: Which is fine. Of course, they're welcome
23
    to sit in.
24
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MR. GILL: Okay. And it includes his mother, his half-brother as well as his sister, one of his sisters.

25

THE COURT: And that's fine.

MR. GILL: And Judge, he does have quite a bit of family support. And he's not somebody -- and I'm not going to go into reasons why or why not. The fact is Mr. Mares sold drugs, two occasions, and he pled guilty. You know, we worked out a deal. He's here, he's accepting responsibility, and that's been from day one, Judge.

You know, the video that your Honor viewed shows a family man and somebody who works, somebody who cares for his son, and somebody who cares for his extended family. And that's what he wants to continue to be able to do, Judge.

He's somebody who has a six-figure paying job. The video did show a statement of his earnings. And he has no -- I think he mentioned it in the video. He has no need -- no financial need to sell drugs or go down this path. He's not somebody who's on the fringe of society who needs to latch onto any kind of money he can get his hands on. That's not Francisco. Francisco is a family man, first and always.

He does have a son who's now 13. I think he was -- he might have been 12 in the -- when the video was made or presented to your Honor, but he's 13 years old. He's entering those formative years where he does need his father in his life. His mother, as you saw in the video, lives in California. And Mr. Mares has Xavier full time. He does visit his mother and Francisco pays for those trips for him to visit

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his mother.

Everything about this man, since I've been on this case, your Honor, is about his family. And that's what he's wishing to be able to return to after your Court -- after this Court's sentence.

He is and has proven that he can be supervised, Judge. He's not out there on, again, the fringes of society where he's committing crimes to survive or that's his way of life or that's his upbringing. He had a tough upbringing, your Honor, but he's somebody who's made himself the man that stands before you today, admitting and owning up to his mistakes.

And this is a -- I mean, obviously, your Honor has seen bigger mistakes, but this is, for Mr. Francisco -- for Francisco, this is as big as it gets. He's pled to a felony. He's going to be a felon and he's done so in the federal court system which, you know, can be a scary proposition for anybody, Judge.

But he's here. He's been to all court appearances. He maintains contact with me. He absolutely can be supervised if given the opportunity. And we are asking for a term of supervised release so he can serve his sentence, continue to work, continue to take care of his son, continue to take care of his family.

And with that, we'll submit it, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Having heard statements of

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counsel for the Government, counsel for the defendant, and the defendant's remarks, having read the presentence report submitted by the probation department, considering its contents and the contents of the plea agreement, the Court hereby accepts the terms of the plea agreement and will embody those terms in the sentence provided.

Of course, overriding everything are the factors set forth in 18 USC 3553(a) which the Court always considers when determining an appropriate sentence.

So I'm going to vary downward to 96 months. I'm deliberately not penalizing you for -- for your position seeing that your family members were threatened or whatever. I'm putting all of that aside. Do you understand? I'm just focusing on your conduct. I think that's what's -- you should be sentenced based on, your conduct, not based on anything that happened after that in the course of these proceedings that doesn't bear on the conduct itself.

So you're hereby committed to the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 96 months. The guideline range in this instance exceeds 24 months but I find that a sentence below that is sufficient but not greater than necessary to have the desired deterrent effect, and thus, satisfies 18 USC Section 3553(c). The -- it's below the guideline range, but I find a downward variance is appropriate based on the nature and characteristics of the offense and the -- primarily -- take a moment.

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1 MR. GILL: I'm sorry. Sorry. 2 THE COURT: That's all right. Primarily the -- the 3 circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant. 4 5 A mandatory penalty assessment of \$100 is required by 6 statute and due immediately. 7 Restitution does not apply in the case. 8 In light of the defendant's financial situation, the 9 fine is being waived. 10 Supervised release will be imposed for a term of five years. While on supervised release, the defendant shall comply 11 12 with the standard conditions of supervision recommended by the 13 Sentencing Commission and the following mandatory conditions 14 required by statute: 15 1. You must not commit another federal, state, or 16 local crime. 17 2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled 18 substance. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a 19 20 controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 21 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic 22 drug tests thereafter, as determined by the Court, not to 23 exceed 104 tests annually. 24 4. You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as

25

directed by the probation officer.

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In addition, the following special conditions are imposed:

- 1. Mental Health Treatment. You must participate in a mental health treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that program. The probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider, will supervise your participation in the program as to provider, location, modality, duration, intensity, and so forth.
- 2. No Contact. You must not communicate or otherwise interact with Renalto Consuegra-Clemente, either directly or through someone else, without first obtaining the permission of the probation officer.
- 3. Search and Seizure. You must submit your person, property, house, residence, office, vehicle, papers, computers (as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 1030(e)(1)), other electronic communications or data storage devices or media to a search conducted by a United States probation officer. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation of release. You must warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

The probation officer may conduct a search under this condition only when reasonable suspicion exists that you have violated a condition of supervision and that the areas to be searched contain evidence of this violation. Any search must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.

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1 Do you understand that? 2 THE DEFENDANT: T do. 3 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Loveless, do you have a 4 copy of those conditions? 5 If you would submit them to the defendant here in open 6 court -- thank you -- and he may study them as he sees fit. 7 All right. Mr. Mares, in your plea agreement, you 8 waived your rights to appeal your conviction and sentence. 9 Nevertheless, there may be certain appellate rights that cannot be waived. 10 11 If you desire to appeal your conviction and sentence, 12 you must file notice of appeal with this court within 14 days 13 from today's date. 14 In the event you cannot afford to pay the costs on 15 appeal, you may request permission to proceed in forma 16 pauperis. If you require the services of an attorney to assist 17 on the appeal and cannot afford to pay an attorney, one will be 18 appointed to represent you at no cost to yourself but at 19 Government expense. And if you require any transcripts of any 20 proceedings in order to prosecute your appeal and cannot afford 21 to pay for those transcripts, they also will be provided at 2.2 Government expense. 23 Do you understand that? 24 I do. THE DEFENDANT: 25 THE COURT: All right. Now, we need a surrender date.

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1
              THE COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, your Honor.
 2
    June 24, 2022 by 12:00 noon.
 3
              THE COURT: At 12:00 noon, right?
 4
              THE COURTROOM ADMINISTRATOR: Yes. Correct.
 5
              THE COURT: All right. Now, what's going to happen,
 6
    Mr. Mares, is in 75 days -- it takes about two and a half
 7
    months -- the Bureau of Prisons is going to designate you to a
    facility. So they'll send you a letter in 75 days. So it's
 8
    not going to come next week, but it will be two and a half
10
    months. It takes them that long. So they'll send you a letter
11
    saying "This is the facility to which you've been designated,"
12
    and it's your obligation to be at that facility at noon -- on
13
    or before noon on June 24th.
14
              Do you understand that?
15
              THE DEFENDANT: I do.
16
              THE COURT: Now, you don't have to be there at, you
17
    know, 5:00 in the morning, but I would there 15 minutes early
18
    because if you aren't there at noon straight-up, they assume
19
    you have absconded and you don't want to start your
20
    incarceration off that -- on that foot.
2.1
              Okay? Do you understand?
2.2
              THE DEFENDANT:
                              I do.
23
              THE COURT: All right.
24
              MR. GILL: Your Honor, can we make --
25
              THE COURT: Designations?
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 1
              MR. GILL: Yes. Thank you. As close to Nevada -- Las
 2
    Vegas as possible. I know that's --
 3
              THE COURT: Any facility close to Las Vegas?
 4
              MR. GILL: Yes.
              THE COURT: Okay. That's -- we'll use your term, "as
 5
 6
    close as possible to Las Vegas."
 7
              MR. GILL: Thank you, your Honor.
 8
              THE COURT: Okay. And hopefully they'll be able to
 9
    comply with that at the Bureau of Prisons.
10
              All right. Anything else to come before the Court?
11
              Anything from the Government?
12
              MS. REESE: No, your Honor. Thank you.
13
              THE COURT: Anything from the defense?
14
              MR. GILL: No. Thank you, your Honor.
15
              THE COURT: Thank you. We'll be in recess.
16
              (The proceedings concluded at 10:40 a.m.)
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----2:20-cr-00018-JCM-EJY ------000--COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE I, SAMANTHA N. MCNETT, Official Court Reporter, United States District Court, District of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. Date: June 4, 2022 /s/ Samantha N. McNett Samantha McNett, RPR, CRR, CCR